THE TOTALLY AWESOME HULK® 8

THE TOTALLY AWESOME HULK

MONTHS AGO, OFF THE KENYAN COAST, AN EXPERIMENTAL FUSION REACTOR HAD FAILED AND THREATENED THE LIVES OF FIFTY MILLION PEOPLE. BRUCE BANNER, AS THE HULK, STOPPED THE MELTDOWN BY PHYSICALLY ABSORBING THE RADIATION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS ABLE TO STOP THE THREAT, THE HULK'S PHYSIOLOGY COULDN'T HANDLE ALL THAT ENERGY, AND HE CAME CLOSE TO A MELTDOWN OF HIS OWN.

AMADEUS CHO ARRIVED AND, AGAINST TONY STARK'S ORDERS, ABSORBED ALL OF BRUCE'S RADIATION. AS A RESULT, AMADEUS IS NOW THE TOTALLY AWESOME HULK, AND BRUCE HADN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE THAT DAY...UNTIL HE POPPED UP IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, COMPLETELY GAMMA FREE!

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BAJA, CALIFORNIA.
ONE MONTH AGO.
ALL RIGHT, PULL OVER...
...HE'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER. I'M GOING THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT.
AMADEUS CHO, A.K.A. THE HULK.
(OKAY, HE'S NOT THE HULK RIGHT THIS SECOND, BUT YOU GET IT, RIGHT?)
HANG ON. HIS VITALS ARE INSANE, AMADEUS...
...ERRATIC HEARTBEAT, EPINEPHRINE SPIKING...
YOU PICKING UP ANY GAMMA ENERGY?
MADDY CHO. AMADEUS'S SISTER AND MISSION CONTROL.
NO. BUT THIS IS BRUCE BANNER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YEAH...
...AND I CURED HIM.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE COOL.
WAIT, AMADEUS, HIS SYSTEM'S COMPLETELY JACKED! HE COULD--

ATCHOOO!
--SNEEZE?
AW, BANNER...
AM-- AMADEUS...?
DUDE, YOU'RE BURNING UP!
BRUCE BANNER, FORMERLY THE INCREDIBLE HULK.
HA! I KNOW! INFLUENZA!
ISN'T IT AMAZING?
WHAT?
FIRST TIME IN YEARS I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN SICK.
THE HULK'S REGENERATIVE ABILITY ALWAYS PREVENTED IT.
BUT NOW--
YOU--YOU INFECTED YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
YES. I HAD TO MAKE SURE.
DUDE!
AMADEUS...
BANNER!

HANG ON, HOW MUCH GARLIC DID YOU USE?
HNN...
I DUNNO. THIRTY CLOVES?
THIRTY! MOM USED, LIKE, SIX!
MOJAVE DESERT, ARIZONA.
BANNER SECRET BASE 19B.
NO WAY. TEN OR FIFTEEN AT LEAST.
AMADEUS, LEMME GET IN THERE. MAYBE WE CAN SALVAGE--
HEY, HEY! BACK OFF!
DUDE!
"DUDE" YOURSELF! YOU'RE MY LITTLE SISTER--
--WHERE'S THE RESPECT?
HA!
HEH.
WHOOP!
BANNER! YOU'RE UP! HANG ON!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! CHECK IT OUT!
IT'S MIYUKGUK. KOREAN SEAWEED SOUP.
OUR MOM USED TO MAKE IT FOR US WHEN WE GOT SICK.
"US"?
OH, YEAH, THAT'S MADDY, MY DUMB SISTER.
HI.
HI.
(SHE'S ACTUALLY A SUPER-GENIUS, BUT WHATEV.)
OH, WAIT A MINUTE. YOU NEED SOME WATER, TOO. OR TEA.
YOU GOTTA DRINK UP. CLEAR LIQUIDS.
AMADEUS--
DANG. HANG ON--
--FIRST THINGS FIRST. WE GOTTA TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE.
YEAH, YOU'RE STILL WARM.
YOU WANT A COOL CLOTH? I'LL GET A COOL CLOTH.
AMADEUS. CALM DOWN.
I'M CALM!
HE'S KIND OF DELIRIOUS. HE'S BEEN WATCHING OVER YOU ALL NIGHT.
LOOK, HE JUST NEEDS SOME WATER! AND A COOL CLOTH! AND TEA--
OKAY. EVERYONE TAKE A DEEP BREATH...
...I'M GONNA TRY THE SOUP.

→SIP←
OH. THAT'S GOOD.
THAT'S... VERY GOOD.
THIRTY CLOVES, HUH?
DAMN STRAIGHT.
WE WERE PRETTY WORRIED THERE FOR A WHILE.
THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING A REAL DOCTOR.
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO'D LOVE TO TAKE A CRACK AT YOU.
HAD TO KEEP YOUR LOCATION A SECRET.
SO...WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME, ANYWAY?
OH. YEAH.
WELL, YOU KNOW.
SOMEONE'S GOTTA CHECK UP ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME, RIGHT?
YEAH?
DING DONG
WHAT THE HECK--

HEY, HEY!
GOT HERE AS FAST AS WE COULD!
RICK JONES, THE HULK'S OLDEST FRIEND. FORMERLY THE GAMMA-POWERED HERO KNOWN AS A-BOMB.
JENNIFER WALTERS, BANNER'S COUSIN. A.K.A. THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
I INVITED THEM.
DUDE, THE WHOLE POINT OF A SECRET HIDEOUT IS THAT IT'S SECRET!
DUDE, I WAS IN ON THIS PARTICULAR SECRET WHEN YOU WERE IN DIAPERS.
HEY, HEY! WATCH THE HAIR!
AW, BRUCE. LOOK AT YOU. YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED.
APPARENTLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO.
BEER?
SURE. HE NEEDS CLEAR LIQUIDS, RIGHT?

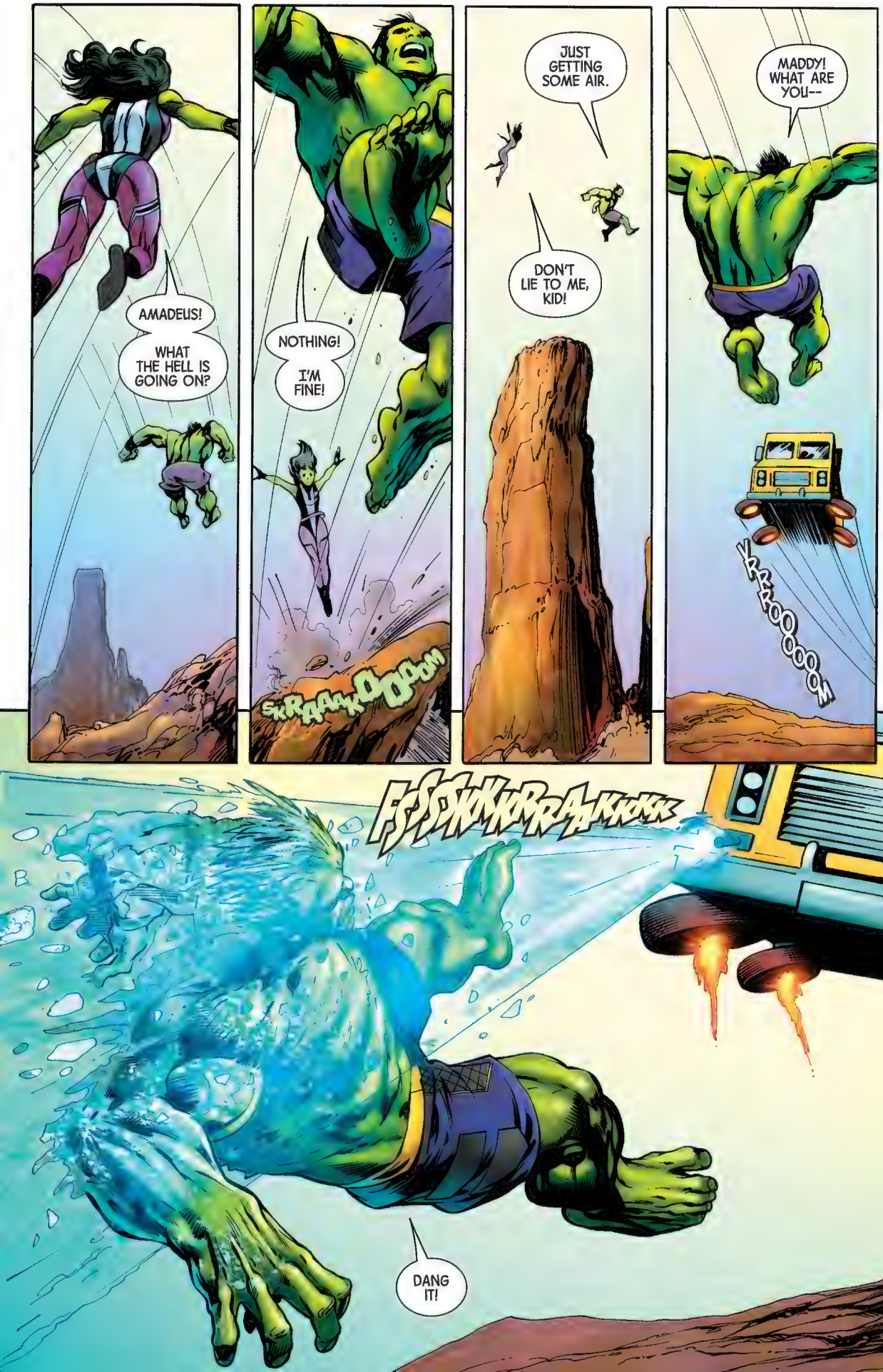
LATER.
HEH.
HA, HA, HA!
FULL HOUSE.
WHAT? AGAIN?
BRUCE, COME ON AND PLAY!
OH, NO, I'M GONNA KEEP RESTING HERE, THANKS.
CAN'T STOP WITH THE SCIENCE-ING, HUH? SAVING THE WORLD?
MAYBE A LITTLE LATER.
THESE DAYS I'VE ACTUALLY JUST BEEN PLAYING A LOT OF MINECRAFT.
OH, REALLY? YOU KILL THE ENDER DRAGON YET?
OH, NO. I'VE BEEN ROAMING AROUND, LOOKING FOR A JUNGLE.
→COUGH← NERDS.
SHUT UP.
I WANT TO TAME AN OCELOT.
COOL. SO... WHAT, YOU BUILD A BASE EVERY NIGHT TO STAY SAFE?
NAH, NO NEED...
...I LIKE TO PLAY ON PEACEFUL.

FUNNY. HE'S SICK AS A DOG.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO...
...WHAT'S THE WORD...
"HAPPY."
THAT'S IT.
AMADEUS, I KNOW I'VE GIVEN YOU A HARD TIME.
BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU. SO I JUST WANNA SAY...
AMADEUS...?

OH, MAN.
LOTTA MEMORIES HERE.
THAT FIRST WEEK...WHEN THE HULK FIRST APPEARED...
...BRUCE LOCKED HIMSELF IN THAT VAULT.
AND I SAT RIGHT HERE ALL NIGHT WHILE THE HULK POUNDED ON THE DOOR.
SCARIEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.
BUT ALL THAT'S CHANGED NOW.
YOU DONE GOOD, KID.
YEAH?
CONTROL OVERRIDE.
HEY, WHAT--
CLICK
RRRRRR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST A LITTLE TEST.
IT'LL BE FUN.
AMADEUS--

KTHOOOOOOM
WHAT THE HELL...
UH-OH.
KTHOOOOOOM
NNNH...
KTHOOOOOOM
AMADEUS! STOP!
KTHOOOOOOM
KTHOOOOOOM
AMMY!

SKKKRRAAKOOOOOM
WHOA.
IT'S NOT REALLY STRONG ENOUGH, IS IT?
AMADEUS--


AMADEUS!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
NOTHING!
I'M FINE!
SKRAAAKOOOOM
JUST GETTING SOME AIR.
DON'T LIE TO ME, KID!
MADDY! WHAT ARE YOU--
VRRROOOOOM
FSSSKKKRRAAKKKKK
DANG IT!

SKRAAK
DOOOOM

ALL RIGHT! ENOUGH OF THIS! YOU TELL THEM!
THERE'S NOTHING TO--
FINE.

AMADEUS HAS BEEN BLACKING OUT.
SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE DOES AS THE HULK.

OKAY... THAT'S...
...PROBABLY SOMETHING TO WORK ON.
RIGHT?
SO HE CAME HERE TO TALK TO BANNER ABOUT IT.

BUT THEN WE GET HERE... AND BANNER'S FINALLY AT PEACE!
I CAN'T DUMP THIS ON HIM NOW!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I INVITED RICK AND JEN!
THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WHOLE HULK THING, TOO! THEY CAN HELP YOU!

SKRAAK
AMADEUS...
...I SAW YOU GO A LITTLE CRAZY IN HAWAII.
BUT THAT'S JUST THE GAMMA RADIATION AMPING UP WHATEVER EMOTIONS YOU'RE ALREADY FEELING.
WE ALL WORK THROUGH THAT.
AND YOU DID FINE.
THIS IS DIFFERENT.
I'VE LITERALLY BLACKED OUT.
AND LAST TIME 'ROUND, I HELPED THE ENCHANTRESS RAID A DWARVEN FORTRESS.
WAIT, WHAT?
I KNOW! AND I HELPED HER STEAL A BUNCH OF URU! THE STUFF ODIN MADE THOR'S HAMMER OUT OF! THAT SHE USED TO MAKE CRAZY MAGIC WEAPONS FOR DARK ELVES!
BUT THEN YOU DEFEATED HER!
AND YOU SAID YOU THOUGHT THE HULK DID IT ALL FOR FUN, 'CAUSE HE JUST SAID HE WANTED A COOL AXE!
OOOKAY...
...DID ANYONE GET HURT?
NO.
BUT PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN!

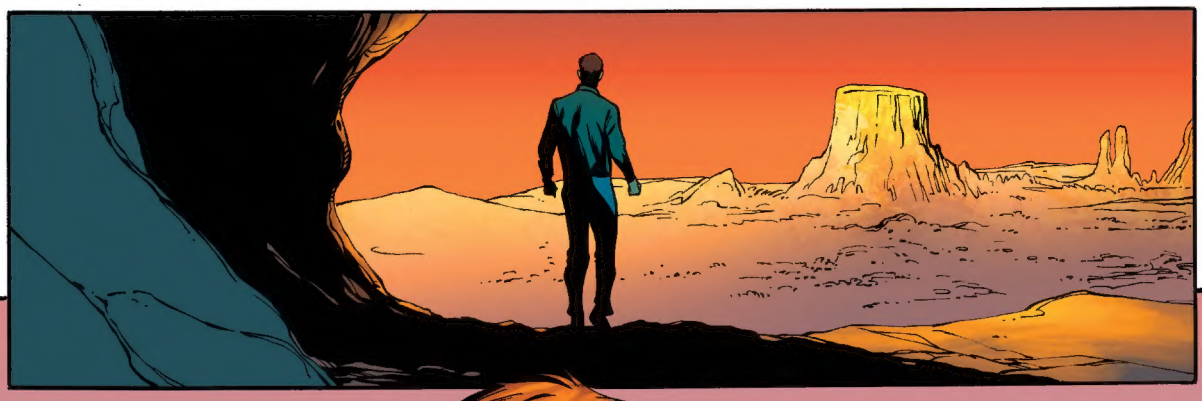
DUDE, AREN'T YOU THE GUY WHO CAME UP WITH THE THEORY ABOUT THE HULK SUBCONSCIOUSLY DOING MATH INSIDE HIS HEAD TO PREVENT HIMSELF FROM KILLING INNOCENTS?
SO?
SO YOU'RE AS SMART AS BRUCE. IF THAT THEORY'S RIGHT, YOU'RE NEVER GONNA HURT ANYONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE IT COMING.
BUT WHAT IF ME AND THE HULK HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHO HAS IT COMING?
THIRD PERSON. HE'S DOING THE THIRD PERSON THING.
YEP.
YOU ARE THE HULK, AMADEUS. HE'S NOT SOMEONE ELSE.
LOOK, IT'S LIKE A DRUNK PERSON, RIGHT? SOME PEOPLE ARE MEAN DRUNKS.
BUT THAT'S NOT A SURPRISE-- THEY'RE MEAN PEOPLE TO BEGIN WITH!
BUT THAT'S NOT YOU! YOU'RE NOT A MEAN DRUNK! YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING?
I DON'T DRINK.
OKAY.
THAT'S ALL I GOT.
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING MORE...

"...MAYBE YOU BETTER TALK TO BRUCE AFTER ALL."
HEY! WHERE WERE YOU?
DUDE! YOU SHOULD BE IN BED!
IN A BIT. I'M FEELING PRETTY GOOD, ACTUALLY.
WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
BEER RUN.
SO. YOU FIND THE OCELOT?
KIND OF.
BEEN READING UP ON ALL THE HERO-ING YOU'VE BEEN DOING.
AW, MAN. DON'T LOOK AT THAT.
I MEAN, YOU'RE RIDICULOUS...
...BUT YOU'RE REALLY DOING IT.
A WHOLE NEW HULK. SAVING THE DAY, EVERY DAY.
I CAN...
...I CAN REALLY LET IT GO, NOW.
YEEEAH.
AAAND THERE IT IS.
DUBIOUS SMILE...
...TROUBLED YES...
LET ME JUST ASK YOU ONE THING, AMADEUS...
...HAVE YOU EVER KILLED ANYONE?

WHAT?
NO!
BUT I HAVE.
I'M NOT DUMB, AMADEUS.
I'M VERY, VERY SMART.
SO I KNOW WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO TALK ABOUT.
SO HERE IT IS:
WHEN I WAS FOUR, I SAW MY FATHER KILL MY MOTHER.
AND YEARS LATER, I KILLED HIM.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
BUT I DID IT.
I'VE GOT THAT KIND OF ANGER INSIDE.
THAT KIND OF CAPACITY.
BUT YOU...
...YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS. AND YOUR HULK'S GONNA HAVE HIS OWN PROBLEMS AS A RESULT.
AND YOU MAY NOT LOVE EVERYTHING YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF.
BUT YOU'RE NOT A...
...YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.
YOU'RE NOT ME, AMADEUS.
YOU'RE NOT ME.

→SNIFF←
DUDE...
...YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER, EITHER.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS TOLD ME.
WHEN ALMOST NO ONE ELSE BELIEVED IT.
SO IF YOU'RE NOT SCARED OF ME...
...HOW THE HELL CAN YOU BE SO SCARED OF YOU?
ATCHOO!
OH, MAN.
YOU'RE BURNING UP.
I'M FINE, I'M FINE--
KID...

"...I KNOW."



PEACE IN OUR TIME

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